

HOUSE No. 2212

By Mr. Broadhurst of Methuen, petition of Arthur J. Broadhurst and Steven A. Baddour relative to the registration and inspection of street rods and custom vehicles. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF STREET RODS AND CUSTOM VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after
3 section 2F thereof, the following section:—

4 Section 2G. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law,
5 rule or regulation to the contrary, the issuance of certificates of
6 registration and license plates for street rods and custom vehicles
7 shall be in accordance with this section.

8 (b) For purposes of this section and section 7DD of this
9 chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings:

10 “Custom vehicle”, a motor vehicle (1) for which the year of
11 manufacture is after 1948 and (a) for which the model year is at
12 least 25 years old, or (b) which was manufactured to resemble a
13 motor vehicle for which the model year is at least 25 years old,
14 and which (2) (a) has been altered from the manufacturer’s orig-
15 inal design, or (b) has a body constructed from non-original mate-
16 rials.

17 “Model year”, the model year indicated on a motor vehicle’s
18 certificate of origin or, if there is no such certificate, the model
19 year the body of such vehicle resembles.

20 “Street rod”, a motor vehicle (1)(a) for which the year of manu-
21 facture is prior to 1949, or (b) for which the year of manufacture
22 is later than 1948 and which was manufactured to resemble a

23 vehicle manufactured prior to 1949, and which (2) (a) has been
24 altered from the manufacturer's original design, or (b) has a body
25 constructed from non-original materials.

26 "Year of manufacture", the model year indicated on a motor
27 vehicle's certificate of origin or, if there is no such certificate, the
28 model year the body of such vehicle resembles.

29 (c) Applications for the registration of a street rod or custom
30 vehicle shall be made by the owner thereof. The application shall
31 contain, in addition to such other particulars as may be required
32 by the registrar, a statement of the name, place of residence and
33 address, date of birth of the applicant and the number of the appli-
34 cant's license to operate, if one has been issued. The application
35 shall also contain the apartment number or unit number if the
36 applicant's address is in an apartment house, or family hotel, or a
37 condominium, or a residential flat, or in a combined business and
38 residential property. The application shall also contain a brief
39 description of the street rod or custom vehicle, including the name
40 of the maker, such number or numbers as may be required by the
41 registrar to properly identify the vehicle, the character of the
42 motor power and the type of transmission. The application also
43 shall contain a statement by the applicant under the penalties of
44 perjury that (1) there are no outstanding excise tax liabilities on
45 said motor vehicle which have been incurred by the applicant, any
46 member of his immediate family who is a member of the appli-
47 cant's household, or any business partner of the applicant, (2) the
48 motor vehicle shall be maintained for occasional transportation,
49 exhibitions, club activities, parades, tours and similar uses, and
50 (3) the motor vehicle will not be used for general daily transporta-
51 tion. The application shall be accompanied by a certificate, in
52 such form as might be acceptable to the registrar, that the street
53 rod or custom vehicle has passed a safety inspection approved by
54 the registrar after consultation with the National Street Rod Asso-
55 ciation. A one-time registration fee of \$25 shall accompany such
56 application. Applicants for registration shall also comply with the
57 provisions of chapter ninety D.

58 The registrar or his duly authorized agents shall register in a
59 book or upon suitable index cards to be kept for the purpose the
60 motor vehicle described in the application, giving to the vehicle a
61 distinguishing mark or number to be known as the register number

62 for that vehicle, and shall thereupon issue to the applicant a cer-
63 tificate of registration. The certificate shall contain the name,
64 place of residence and address of the applicant and the register
65 number or mark, and shall be in such form and contain such fur-
66 ther information as the registrar may determine.

67 The registrar shall further issue a special street rod or custom
68 vehicle registration plate, of a size and design to be determined by
69 regulations promulgated by the registrar after consultation with
70 the National Street Rod Association.

71 (d) Street rods and custom vehicles registered according to this
72 section shall be exempt from any statute that requires periodic
73 vehicle inspections or the use and inspection of emission controls.

74 (e) The presence of any specific equipment is not required for
75 the operation of a street rod or custom vehicle registered under
76 this section, unless the presence of such equipment was specifi-
77 cally required by another provision of the general laws as a condi-
78 tion of sale in the year of manufacture.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
2 amended by inserting, after section 7CC the following section:—

3 Section 7DD. Notwithstanding sections 7 and 7E of this chapter
4 and any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the con-
5 trary, street rods and custom vehicles may use blue dot tail lights
6 for stop lamps, rear turning indicator lamps, rear hazard lamps and
7 rear reflectors. For the purposes of this section, a “blue dot tail
8 light” shall mean a red lamp installed in the rear of a motor
9 vehicle containing a blue or purple insert that is not more than one
10 inch in diameter.